

SA1058333

Portrait of a Noble Girl aged 9
in a Black Dress, Lace Ruff &
Cuffs, dated 1619; Circle of
Cornelis van der Voort (1576-
1624), Oil on cradled panel
painting

Price

Sold**Item Reference: SA1058333****Date of manufacture: 17th Century**

Dimensions

Height = 146 cm (57.5")

Width = 109 cm (42.9")

Depth = 7 cm (2.8")

Description

This exquisite full-length portrait depicts a young lady wearing a Dutch coif or coronet of lace, a wired sheer lawn collar, and an elaborate black dress. The inscription on the upper right indicates that the girl was nine years of age when the portrait was painted in 1619. Like rhetoricians, seventeenth-century artists were bound by rules and expectations for proper decorum, even in matters of dress. Costume was carefully chosen to suit the ideals of a particular culture or sitter and was used to convey a multitude of meanings. Knowledge of its associations and the history of costume can be crucial to the interpretation of portraiture. Furthermore, a long history of sumptuary laws bears witness to the presence of a codified etiquette so much that instruction manuals on appropriate dress began to appear as early as 1528. The wealth of the sitter is apparent in the extraordinary textiles – the expensive lace, the dress with its gold detail, and the crimson canopy. A ruff as extravagant as this was an extraordinarily costly item, and were prized possessions listed in inventories and handed down in families as heirlooms. Black garments signified a certain social and mor...

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